



The President's Daily Brief

Sunday Cable - 11 July 1971

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SUNDAY CABLE
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VIETNAM

Saigon's negotiating team in Paris is taking a fairly hard-headed view of the new Communist peace initiative. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] although the delegation had received no instructions from Saigon, it had on its own assessed the new seven points as a "skillful" and "timely" package that presents real difficulties for the Allies without sacrificing any basic Communist objectives. There was general agreement that Madame Binh and Le Duc Tho had managed to generate a new impression of Communist reasonableness that would be difficult to counter, and that the Communists had indeed made a "genuine positive attempt" to meet some US objections to previous proposals, particularly on the POW issue.

This lack of panic, coupled with a fairly realistic view of the problems created for the US by the new Communist formulation should ease the difficulties in developing a coordinated Allied response, at least at the working level in Paris. Although there was some delegation apprehension that President Nixon would yield to US political pressure and compromise President Thieu's position, delegation chief Pham Dang Lam was more sanguine.

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CYPRUS

The Turkish Cypriot negotiator in the stalemated intercommunal talks has publicly, albeit unofficially, reiterated the standard hard-line Turkish position that the ideal solution to the intercommunal problem would be one based on "complete geographic separation" of the two communities.

The Turkish statement in rejecting the latest Greek Cypriot proposals leaves little room for further progress in the intercommunal meeting next month. It also would appear to bear out the Greek Cypriots' view that the Turks would not long continue to support the talks. Nevertheless, one Turkish Cypriot official recently insisted that the official response would still leave the door open for further negotiations. There has been considerable concern by all parties that a breakdown in the talks could lead to new outbreaks of intercommunal violence.

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INDIA

Foreign aid commitments for the East Pakistani refugees in India are mounting very slowly. Only \$120 million in assistance had been pledged for refugee relief as of early this month. This sum is far short of the estimated \$400 million required to cover only six months of adequate care for the approximately 6.5 million refugees now in India. Prime Minister Gandhi has characterized the aid as "practically next to nothing." The US has been by far the biggest contributor with a commitment of \$70.5 million. Most of the relief contributions to date have been channeled through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who is coordinating the international relief program. The presence of five million refugees in West Bengal alone has produced a sharp increase in food prices and a substantial drop in wages.

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